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Training on the job

■ A postwar crop of new county agents recently completed a year of in-service training with the Oregon Extension Service. Two district meetings—one for agents in eastern Oregon counties and the other for those in the western part of the State—with extension methods as the principal topic, concluded the training. Essentials in successful use of program planning, method demonstrations, result demonstrations,

meetings, news stories, radio broadcasts, circular letters, and visual aids were covered. At the same time, the agents were given a first-hand view of experimental work under way at an experiment station serving their section of the State.

The in-service training of these young agents started with an orientation session at the beginning of their employment. Two to four days were spent at Oregon State College in a

series of conferences with specialists in the project fields important in the counties to which these new agents would be assigned. They also received instruction in policies, procedures, and relationships by supervisors and other administrative officials.

On the job in the county, they have worked during the past year under the supervision of an experienced agent. At intervals of 3 to 4 months they have been called together in district training sessions at one of the branch experiment stations serving their section of the State—sometimes with the more experienced agents present and sometimes in meetings by themselves.

The value of the special training being given younger agents is indicated in comments of agents with long experience. "I wish we had been able to get that training when I was starting in this work," is a common statement. "It would have been worth a lot to me."

Young veterans on the eastern Oregon county agent staff get a lesson in bull grading as part of their in-service training. Shown in the photo, left to right, are Paul J. Covey, Deschutes County 4-H agent; Leslie Marks, Wheeler County agent; Burns Bailey, Union County assistant agent; George Bain, Malheur County assistant; R. A. Hunt, Jefferson County agent; Andrew Landforce, Wal-lowa County 4-H agent; Ernest Lathrop, Wasco County 4-H agent; Harry Avery, superintendent of the Union Branch Experiment Station; Leroy Fuller, Umatilla County assistant agent; Leeds Bailey, Malheur County assistant; Francis Skinner, Klamath County 4-H agent; Ernest Kirsch, Gilliam County agent; and H. A. Lindgren, extension animal husbandman. All the county extension workers shown have entered extension work or returned to it after war service with the armed forces.



Dressmaking a news story

■ For the first time in the history of the Extension Service, a man made a dress in a demonstration at State College, Miss., before 40 agricultural workers attending summer school.

The group was amazed when Jack Flowers, extension editor, started his class by exhibiting 3 yards of soft blue material and declaring: "I'm going to make a dress this afternoon."

As the agricultural extension workers were set for a talk on how to write news stories, the agents mumbled to one another: "Just like a teacher, talking about anything but the subject."

Mr. Flowers pointed out, however, that writing a news story is like making a dress.

"First the goods must be selected; and, second, they must be put together according to a certain pattern. The goods for a story," Mr. Flowers explained, "are the facts or statements that are to go into it. The pattern is the arrangement of these facts and statements; that is, which fact or statement goes first, which second, and so on.

"Choosing the facts or material is

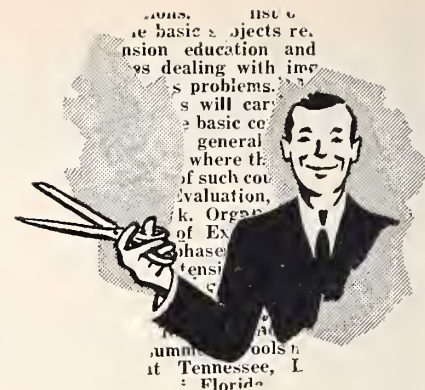
the first and most important step in preparing a story. When a woman picks goods for a dress, she first considers the purpose of the garment, whether for housework, party, or street wear. This will govern the kind of goods to buy.

"Having this in mind, she asks to see all the different pieces of such goods her merchant has in stock, and then makes her choice.

"The same procedure is advisable in selecting news or other information material. First, consider the purpose of the story. The best material is that which is new or different."

The complete story of a home demonstration club's special activity was printed on the cloth which he used in this demonstration. His three assistants, Mr. Flowers admitted, were the real dressmakers of the information department.

One of the home agents who wears a size 14 dress volunteered to serve as the model, and in a short time the material was cut and pinned on her. Before the material was cut, the story looked like a cross-word puzzle. But as the various parts were cut and



pinned in place, the story took its proper form with the most important fact in the lead paragraph.

Mr. Flowers then had the class help pick out the Who, What, When, Where, How, and Why? in the lead paragraph, and also emphasized the importance of arrangement of the succeeding paragraphs.

Using illustrated posters, the "dressmaker" stressed these points: Know the purpose of the story; know what to say; think before writing; put the unusual first; answer Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How? in the first two paragraphs; arrange material in order; satisfy your reader; give special results.

Soil-testing service unique

■ Cooperation between County Agent Gordon R. Schlubatis and the Branch County Farm Bureau has resulted in a soil-testing service that is unique, and one of the most complete in Michigan.

Not only does this combination of services give the farmer complete information about his soil and how to handle it, but a permanent record is filed in the office of the county agricultural agent. This establishes a history of the fertility from the various farms tested that can be referred to in future years.

In this arrangement, farmers bring their soil samples to the county farm-bureau office. Here samples are analyzed in a modern laboratory to determine acidity and available phosphorus and potash.

The laboratory has not only the

usual soil testing equipment, but a new electrical device called a photometer. This device eliminates the possibility of error in reading results.

A sheet listing the results of the analysis and a questionnaire filled out by the farmer telling about his soil, previous treatment, and plans for the coming year, are sent to County Agent Schlubatis. The county agent calls in the farmer and makes definite recommendations. If any lime is required the farmer then knows exactly the amount he needs to apply.

The farmer is also given recommendations regarding the type of fertilizer he should use for various crops. Other good soil-management practices such as the use of barnyard manure and the seeding and plowing under of legumes are also discussed by the county agent.

Agent Schlubatis reports that hundreds of farmers have used the service and are pleased with the results.

Of what value

Members of the Wake County, N. C., home demonstration clubs have completed plans for a study to determine the effectiveness of their program in the county, according to an announcement today by Katherine Verna Stanton, assistant State agent for the State Extension Service.

Plans call for three representatives from each club to visit one club member and three nonmembers in each club community in the county. A discussion of the club program by club members with their neighbors will, it is believed, create greater interest in the program and what it can do for rural people. Information gathered from this study will be used for building future programs in the county.

Tenants' level of living boosted

■ New and better farm and home-making practices have been discovered every year for the past five decades. Long strides have been made toward raising production and boosting the standard of living.

But despite these advances, farming in the South has been pulling a heavy load through these years of progress that has acted like a brake on progressive farm and home practices. That lag, called the South's No. 1 farming problem by many a survey, is farm tenancy.

And while one sociologist after another has pointed a warning finger at this retarding factor over the past 35 years, Edgecombe County, N. C., extension agents have been seeking the underlying causes of this problem and applying remedial action.

In this Coastal Plain county where tobacco, peanuts, and cotton provide the major cash income for virtually every farm family, nearly 80 percent of all farmers were tenants in 1945, when landowners totaled 736 and tenants 2,851.

Looking at their county objectively, Farm Agent J. C. Powell, Mrs. Eugenia P. Van Landingham, home demonstration agent, and their assistants, saw a tenancy picture that was none too bright. Instability, inefficiency, and ignorance, coupled with lack of care and cooperation, were constantly hindering the success of new practices.

Then a farm and home improvement program was outlined that would raise the standard of living for tenants, increase efficiency of production, promote greater stability, and provide for better cooperation and relationships between landowners and tenants. The outline made it clear that an educational program would have to be carried to both the landowner and the tenant.

One hundred and fifteen tenant families located on 12 farms were chosen for the project. Superimposing this plan on the network of 721 persons making up these families was a difficult task, despite the fact that all landowners and tenants cooperated fully.

They saw need for such work and were more than glad to get into a program like this, the workers said.

When the cooperators had been selected and consulted, meetings began. The agents met with the landowners and their wives to learn their reaction to such a plan and discussed the broad scope of the improvement program. With this accomplished, the next step was a meeting called by individual landowners for their tenants. The landlord and the farm and home agents were on hand at these meetings held on each farm. Next, a meeting of each family on each farm was attended by the agents, the landlord, and his wife.

As a part of the home visits, status inventories were taken so that any progress could be noted later. A check on the education of the 115 families showed an average of 3.3 grades completed by the fathers, 4.9 grades by the mothers, and 5.5 grades by the children over the age of 16.

More Home-Produced Food

Annual food supply per family was only 63.4 quarts of fruits and vegetables, 798 pounds of meat and lard, or about 16 percent enough fruits and vegetables and less than 50 percent enough meat and lard. The average income per family in 1945 was \$1,744.83, out of which they paid their share of all crop expenses.

The average run-down house accommodated more than 6 persons. Refrigerators, radios, electric irons, newspapers, and magazines were scarce. Two families had no chairs and used boxes or benches in place of them. An ice box or refrigerator was in 1 out of 3 homes, and there was 1 pressure cooker for every 10 families.

Toilet facilities were entirely lacking on most farms and poor where they did exist. Nearly one-half of the families used an open well for their water supply. These wells were not only a health menace to the families but were also outstanding accident and danger hazards.

But the farm and home improvement program was designed to cure these ills. To implement these activities, H. C. Scott and Althea Boone, each a full-time assistant for the farm and the home phase respectively, were brought on the job to handle the complicated workings of the plan.

In 1 year of the plan meat production per family increased 28 percent; lard, 26 percent; and poultry production, 63 percent.

Interest likewise boomed in dairying, pastures, soil conservation, crops, small fruits, orchards, and in supplying more of the family's food needs at home.

Landowners were encouraged to provide each family with a small orchard, and the tenants themselves purchased 5,500 strawberry plants. Significant results in per acre yield of crops were shown in a 16-percent increase in cotton, or 55 pounds. Corn yields were up 38 percent, and tobacco increased 3 percent.

On the home-improvement side, the agents encouraged families to buy many needed things for their homes, emphasizing such things as beds, mattresses, springs, chairs, heaters, irons, and kitchen ranges. In 1 year, 10 pressure cookers were added, 39 radios, 17 sofas, 16 cabinets, 30 wardrobes, 26 tables, 16 rugs, 7 refrigerators, 1 washing machine, and 1 sewing machine. Newspapers and magazines received by the families during the year jumped 50 percent.

The county health sanitarian assisted the agents in testing water supplies, and open wells were protected from contamination. Twenty-three additional houses were wired in 1946; 26 houses were re-sided; floors were repaired in 30 houses; 31 roofs were repaired, 30 windows replaced, 48 steps repaired, 22 houses underpinned, 13 new rooms added, and 3 new houses built. All premises were sprayed with DDT in a special campaign, and the rat problem was successfully attacked. The size of the average garden was increased from 0.2 to 0.5 acre, and the variety of vegetables increased from 7 to 12.

Summarizing the year's work, the agents said: "The farm and home program cannot be carried too fast, because of the families' limitations in education and economics and because the people we are working with move frequently. At the close of the first year's work, however, we feel that this program is worth while and we look toward a future of better living standards, and increased efficiency of production and use of resources on the farm."

Farm woman makes business friends

MRS. J. E. HANKINSON, Selling on the Home Demonstration Club Market, Aiken, S. C.

■ After selling on the club market for several years, I should like to mention some things that I feel are helpful in creating and maintaining friendly relations between producer and consumer. Anyway, they have helped me personally to build friendships that I treasure and, incidentally, to sell a lot of produce.

First on my list, I think, should be good produce. When our market was organized and I became a charter member, I resolved to have the largest eggs, the best butter, the nicest fruit, and the freshest and prettiest flowers that were possible for me to produce. These superior products have always brought the customers to my table and created a friendly atmosphere.

The second requirement, I believe, is honesty. By this I do not mean just in the exchange of dollars and cents. There are so many little things that can reveal our true selves, and people are quick to see and judge our real worth. For instance, good weight is a necessity. I have made it a rule to give a little extra rather than to cut, or even to be too exact. In selling eggs, once in a

while I slip in an extra one, and I do not lose in the long run.

In packing fruit, I do not put the best on top. I do arrange it so as to make the nicest appearance, but the quality is the same all the way to the bottom of the crate.

Another thing: I do not take advantage of a shortage of certain items. Sometimes I have flowers or fruits that no one else has, and I realize I could go up in price and still sell out completely. But should I jeopardize the confidence my customers have in me for a few dollars and cents?

The Customer Is Right

Also, I guarantee every product I sell. I have never let a dissatisfied customer leave me, even if I have to replace or refund the purchase price; and I always accept the customer's word. Incidentally, I have had very few complaints.

As third on my list, I am going to place attractive appearance. A fresh white apron and cap and a pleasant manner will pay off in friendliness as well as cash. I make it a rule to be just as pleasant when a customer buys

from someone else as I am when she is buying from me.

Among other things, I should say it pays to remember names. People appreciate your calling them by name and feel a little flattered when you remember them among so many.

If you wish to keep good feeling, do not forget special orders. Customers appreciate little special attentions when some particular event is being planned.

Also consideration toward men customers is appreciated. Not very many men come into our market, and they seem a little timid among so many women buyers and stand back sometimes until everything has been picked over. Consequently, I select what I think a man customer's wife will like and do not palm off something that is a slow sale. This is considered quite a favor, and he goes away well pleased with his purchase. Needless to say, his wife sends him back to my table.

Flowers for the Sick

I feel that my custom of sending a bouquet of flowers to any sick customer has added to the friendly feeling between us. When death occurs in a family, I do not send flowers to the funeral—I do not have this kind—but later, when they come back to the market, I give them a nice bunch of fresh flowers, which I have arranged before leaving home, to decorate the grave. I enjoy doing this, and it is not forgotten by the recipient.

A little thing that makes a big difference is the art of showing no preferences. Some wealthy women come into our market, and it is easy to let these customers who buy so much have the choice of produce; but I try to show just as much consideration to the smallest buyer as I do to the largest one.

Just as a friendly gesture, when I have a surplus of fruit, I take an extra basket along to market and invite all passersby to have some. These little things make our market quite homelike and "a nice place to meet your friends."

I think it takes a number of years to build up a lasting confidence between producer and consumer, but it can be done. Personally, I am quite proud of my "business friendships."

Mrs. Hankinson, ready for business on the club market.



A home demonstration agent— 1947 edition—presents her views

Through the years we've come to accept as almost legendary the stories of the difficulties home demonstration agents experienced in the pioneer days of extension. Occasionally we've forgotten that to the new, very young, inexperienced agent of today the pioneer period may seem simple in comparison with the complexities she herself faces!

Take, for example, the case of young Betty Daniels, appointed home demonstration agent in Blount County, Tenn., March 25, 1946. (And we might have taken any one of the new agents appointed in the United States in the same year.) Miss Daniels was 1 of 33 new home demonstration agents appointed in Tennessee during 1946. This figure is perhaps typical of the Nation's new employees for the year.

Just graduated from the University of Tennessee, Miss Daniels' first problem on entering her brand-new county was to get around. Cars, as so many new agents found to their sorrow, were practically unobtainable. Betty was fortunate in this respect. Her county agent, I. T. Elrod, veteran worker in Blount County, arranged for her to travel with him when she couldn't reach places in the county by bus or train. Even this situation had advantages. The county agent's knowledge of the county and its people were at her disposal.

The Field Is So Big

This young home demonstration agent had to work out many angles to the job all by herself. The modern community with its varied organization, the present-day farm woman with her many broad interests, the youth with his complex problems, all were to be recognized and worked with. Small wonder then that Betty and others like her probably begin to wonder "Who am I, to think that I can deal with all these problems? What can one small person do to help farm people achieve better lives?"

The average training a home demonstration agent gets in home

economics is excellent—vastly superior, it may be said, to the training with which her predecessor started work in the First World War period. But it does not furnish the answers to a lot of the questions the present-day home demonstration agent faces. Betty expresses it this way:

"It began to seem that each day I knew less and less. I was asked things I couldn't answer. I met problems I couldn't solve."

Perhaps the greatest asset any agent has is a sense of humor. Betty's own story proves her own. Says she: "There was that time when I was giving my first demonstration on summer salads. I had taken along some vegetables to make an appetizing salad. These were left in our hostess' kitchen until time came for me to fix the salad. Well, some of the children had come with the mothers. (We always encourage this, else how could those who need home demonstration work the most get it?) These youngsters ventured into the kitchen and evidently found the vegetables, appetizing as they were. Anyway, when the meeting came to the point where I was to give the salad demonstration, I discovered nothing left but the ice and water in which the vegetables had been crisping."

The weeks went on. "Some of my greenness disappeared," she recalls. "When I saw that people were beginning to depend on me and respected my judgment, I began to gain confidence. And there were little accomplishments, small in themselves, but which meant a lot to me. There was the 4-H Club, for example, in which the girls decided that in addition to their regular 4-H work they wanted to learn to knit. So I taught them how to make a small purse. To my surprise, at the next meeting 15 little girls brought 15 small purses they had knitted. They also brought 15 smiles to show how pleased they were at their achievement!"

In common with other home demonstration agents, especially new ones, Betty has been surprised—"sometimes overwhelmed," as she puts it—



over what farm women can accomplish. Early this year, the Blount County home demonstration club members decided they'd have a better-homes tour over the county as a part of their observation of National Home Demonstration Week. This seemed somewhat ambitious, but Betty took heart from their enthusiastic planning of it. Actually, when the tour took place more than half of the entire membership of home demonstration clubs in the county went along. Five outstanding homes were visited.

Learn to Work Together

Inhabitants of one Blount County community have shown marked improvement in working together in the last few months. "It's the very place," she says, "where, when I first started working with the women, they seemed interested but didn't accomplish very much. But then I found they all wanted to make their yards more beautiful, so we started from there. Mr. Elrod came out to show them how to make shrubbery cuttings. I talked about some of the principles of good landscaping. Soon the women had started a small nursery in their community and had begun to make improvements in their own yards. The 4-H Club girls and boys helped with the nursery by clearing off a plot of land and getting a man to plow the land for the plantings. The shrubs in this nursery will be used to landscape the school and church grounds, and in their own homes. Maybe some will be left over for the roadsides!"

Home demonstration work is a challenging field of home economics, Betty believes. "It's such an opportunity for young women to find a place in which they can help others and to live full lives themselves."

Need for reaching more young people spells opportunity to Extension

H. W. HOCHBAUM, Chief, Division of Field Coordination

■ The influence of 4-H Club work on young people is truly great.

That is because the ideals and philosophy back of this important extension activity are high and withal sound and practical. Moreover, the educational methods employed, long tested with the potential 13 million or more boys and girls involved, are fundamentally correct. As a result, 4-H work has won high esteem in educational circles, as well as popular appreciation.

"4-H Club work can be the greatest youth organization in the country," said Barry Wall, editor of the *Farmville, Va., Herald*. He also said: "It is a design for living. It is a useful, instructive program related in an intensely practical way to the life of its members. 4-H members make play out of their work, but together they build for a greater farm industry in the Nation, an industry that will become progressively greater because of the intelligence and the study being applied in the development of a program."

13 Millions of 4-H Age

This makes sweet music. Such statements are most satisfying and encouraging to the many extension workers and voluntary leaders who are working so devotedly to make 4-H work even better. They realize that there still are big jobs ahead. True, 4-H Club work has grown immeasurably in purpose, breadth, method, and influence. Moreover, in most States the number of boys and girls enrolled has grown steadily. Today there are some 1,615,000 4-H Club members. But the census tells us that there are more than 13 million boys and girls of club age in the rural areas alone of the continental United States, Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico. In some States only 1 boy or girl out of every 15 of club age is enrolled.

And many thousand boys and girls who enrolled in 4-H Club work re-

mained as participants for only too short a time. Then there is a host of young people above club age, unmarried and married, who are not reached through extension work. The postwar years are bringing tremendous changes in national and international affairs which greatly affect agricultural and country life. Certainly, it would seem that everything possible should be done to help the young people of today to better adjust themselves to the problems and the tempo of the times. There is need for developing an extension program to reach all rural youth and, perhaps, more of the urban youth.

Change in Methods Needed

First of all, we need a far larger club enrollment. The National Committee of State Club Leaders responsible for developing the 10 guideposts for 4-H Club work set a goal of 3,200,000 club members by 1950. This was approved by the Extension Subcommittee on 4-H Club work of the Committee on Extension Organization and Policy. That goal can be reached and even exceeded. But some changes in methods of conducting club work will be needed, as well as in methods of obtaining enrollment. A hurry-up, sign 'em up on the dotted line, short-time, rapid-fire campaign won't do the job or make for longer-time participation in club work by many who might enroll. A sustained educational program, not merely more publicity, is called for. Such a program should be organized and conducted to bring about a much wider and greater understanding on the part of the general public of the objectives, programs, and methods of 4-H Club work and the place this feature holds in the extension organization and program. But this educational work must also be directed especially to reach parents of boys and girls, as well as the boys and girls themselves, to bring about a sympa-

thetic knowledge and understanding of 4-H work on their part. It should also attract more volunteers to serve as local leaders. A well-organized campaign of this kind would use all available resources of personnel and extension means and devices. And the campaign must extend over a period of 4 to 5 months before any intensive membership enrollment is attempted.

Preliminary to launching this program, some briefing of extension agents must be done. The responsibility of every extension agent with respect to club work may need to be clearly set forth by the extension director. Especially do the newly employed agents and assistant agents need to be trained and directed, not only with regard to the campaign but emphatically so with regard to organizing and maintaining 4-H Clubs and their work. The agents as well as their immediate supervisors need also to be most active in obtaining and training local volunteer leaders.

In seeking the larger enrollment, in aiming to expose more young people and parents to 4-H ideals and work, we need to go beyond the strictly farm or rural young-people groups. The time is ripe for entering towns and even larger urban areas to interest parents and young people in the values that come with 4-H membership, and definitely to organize 4-H Clubs in such communities. The Oregon Legislature recently passed a law permitting towns and cities with more than 8,000 people to appropriate funds for the employment of a club agent or a home demonstration agent or both in cooperation with the State extension service. This type of work would necessitate new methods, new projects, varied types of organization, to be sure. But the need is there, also a fine opportunity for greater service.

Those Outside the Club

A comprehensive extension program for young people must include some extension effort with boys and girls of club age, whether or not they subsequently enroll as 4-H members. They could be reached through meetings, talks at school, circulars, circular letters, farm-press and news information generally, in much the same way as extension work with

adults. The great developments in agricultural and home economics science should be made interesting and vital to these young people. Agricultural and homemaking subjects do have cultural as well as vocational values. To be sure, the county extension agents need first to have a mailing list of all boys and girls of club age. Later, a special list for mailing purposes could be made of all young people in the club-age group not enrolled in club work.

We may ask also whether Extension does not have a responsibility to help rural young people who do not wish to stay on farms. It does seem that we could help many, especially those under 21, to find themselves, to measure their abilities and desires, and to select a life's vocation and prepare themselves for this. We can help them understand what specific vocations require in the way of prepara-

tion, what desirable and undesirable features mark certain occupations, and what requirements must be met, what opportunities exist.

There are numbers of young unmarried people in many counties who may be preparing for farming and homemaking who would benefit from the helps Extension might give them. Should they be induced to swell the ranks of the older-youth clubs, now numbering some 65,000 members? Or has Extension a teaching responsibility for seeing that these young people get all the help available on farming and homemaking, whether they belong to a formally organized group or not? Here is an opportunity and a challenge.

A similar need and opportunity is afforded by the young married people. They do not usually join with existing extension groups or clubs of older people. Perhaps because they are just

starting out they may not have time to attend group meetings. Perhaps they feel diffident in mingling with groups of older people.

Withal, through meetings, discussion groups, or organized clubs, supplemented by other extension means and agencies, we can help many more young people to develop wider knowledge and appreciation of situations and problems that lie outside vocational preparation. Included would be health, social welfare, economics, community improvement, national and international policies, political science, cultural appreciation, and recreation. With such a program comes the problem of knowing when formal organization of young people is needed and what type is best for special purposes. Then we need to help the young people find and train leadership and how to build and carry on with their organization.

Dramatists compete

■ The Castle Rock Amateur Dramatics Club from Douglas County, Colo., took top honors in the second annual 2-day State rural play festival. Their one-act play, *They're None of Them Perfect*, was directed by Mrs. Nina Alexander of Castle Rock.

Presentation of the banner symbolizing State-wide honors was made by F. A. Anderson, Director of the Colorado Extension Service.

Other placings announced by Stewart Case, extension recreation specialist, included Sedgwick County as second-high winner with a cast from the Valley Workers Home Demonstration Club of Ovid, which presented the play, *Wisdom for Wives*. The directors were Mrs. Alma Sowder and Mrs. Mary Rees, both of Ovid.

Third rating was given Washington County representatives from the Woodrow Home Demonstration Club for their production of *Sparkin'*, directed by Mrs. L. C. Zollars of Woodrow.

A total attendance of 871 at the festival was reported by Case. In the county elimination contests which preceded the State event, more than 450 rural people, representing 63 communities from 14 counties, competed.

Thirteen counties took part in the State competition.

Judging was done by Miss Ruth Wattles, dramatic coach at Colorado A. and M. College; Mrs. Margaret Filas, former recreation specialist for the Extension Service (who started the rural play festival idea last year

with the help of Miss Wattles), and Mrs. Betty Lee Kelly of Fort Collins.

Counties participating were: Boulder, Washington, Adams, Yuma, Lincoln, Garfield, El Paso, Las Animas, Huerfano, Sedgwick, Douglas, Arapahoe, and Jefferson. Participants in the festival came chiefly from home demonstration clubs, young farmers' and homemakers' groups, and rural community organizations.

The Jefferson County cast presents the one-act play "Sparkin'."



Get the "low down" on visual aids

■ Indiana's extension workers bid fair to be among the "picture takers" in the land as a result of a series of four visual-education conferences held in the State during May.

Two of these conferences for northern Indiana were held at the Lake Maxinkuckee Inn at Culver; for central Indiana workers, one at the Purdue Marott Agricultural Center, Indianapolis; and the final session for southern Indiana workers at Spring Mill State Park.

The purpose of the conference series was to bring extension workers up to date on the available facilities for visual education in the local extension program and to present new ideas in the field, particularly to staff workers added recently.

Each conference opened with a review of the purpose of the meeting. During the morning session on the first day the fundamentals of operating a camera and light meter and composition of photographs was cov-

ered. This was followed by a review of what types of pictures newspapers want.

Then during the afternoon of the first day of each conference a field trip was taken to a typical farm home. The agricultural agents were in two groups and the home demonstration agents in a third, each of which was provided with a supervisor. The men were assigned problems in photographing livestock, machinery, plant specimens, and various farm operations. The home agents were given problems in interior studies, including flower, furniture, pottery, and other arrangements as well as home-making operations and other problems similar to those presented in the routine work of the extension agent.

Consideration was also given to photographing individuals and groups.

All photos were made with 35-millimeter cameras on black-and-white film which was developed and reversed for projection that night. The

problem photographs were projected during the morning program the second day. A review of light, time, camera setting, and other conditions preceded a discussion of each picture.

Other sessions included discussions on the method for mounting slides; camera and projection equipment and its maintenance; use of charts and posters; use of working models; and the types of film and filters to use. The evening session included a discussion of indoor photography and the use of artificial light. County agents were invited to bring along color slides that were made in connection with their work, and these were shown and discussed during the evening. Extension workers also were invited to bring along their camera equipment for use in making extra photos of the problem studies for later comparison.

Although a few of the agents proved to be experts with their cameras and other visual aids equipment, most of them obtained much information to take home. Some of them learned for the first time, for example, how to operate a light meter and to take an "open flash" photo with their own equipment. Many of them commented that the conference was one of the most instructive and enjoyable they had attended. They went away from the meeting with added ambition for capitalizing on visual aids in their own work.—*Francis Murray, assistant extension editor, Purdue University.*

(Left to right) O. W. Mansfield, Assistant County Agent Leader; Kathryn Gregory, Bartholomew County Home Demonstration Agent; and H. A. McCutchan, Harrison County Agent.



Hundreds of fire extinguishers

Three hundred and fifty farm homes in Jefferson County, Ky., have the protection of fire extinguishers as a result of cooperation between homemakers' clubs, the fire department, and the Farm Bureau.

It all came about when Mrs. Walter Gibson of the Fairmount Homemakers' Club successfully put out a fire in her chicken house with an extinguisher. After that experience, she recommended to Home Agent Anna K. Evans that farm homes generally have such protection. Upon consultation with fire officials, 350 four-gallon, hand-pump, water-type fire extinguishers were purchased from the War Assets Administration at Camp Breckenridge.

Neighborhood play group flourishes

BLANCHE E. MORAN, Home Demonstration Agent, Warren County, N. J.

Little Bobby had remarkably good manners for a 3-year-old, but when I mentioned this fact on a visit to his home, I found that Bobby's behavior was a source of worry to his mother. The family home was located on a high hill which small children found hard to negotiate unless accompanied by an adult. Even though he lived in a rural community with a number of other young children, Bobby saw too few of them.

Talking over the problem, I wondered if a neighborhood play group was a possibility. The idea appealed to Bobby's mother, and a meeting was called for all mothers of preschool children in the community. Twelve of the children and their mothers formed the play group. It was decided to limit the experiment to this number at first.

Bobby's mother offered her playroom and yard. A schedule was developed calling for two mothers to take charge each day. Plans for transporting the children were perfected. Each parent provided some play equipment, and the mothers in charge for the day provided the mid-morning fruit juice.

At first too many toys were sent, but after a discussion of suitable play equipment unnecessary things were gradually eliminated.

Fathers Take Active Part

The fathers began early to take part in the development of this play group, locating and setting up outdoor play equipment. Mothers sandpapered and painted nail kegs and orange crates for the children's use. Records for the phonograph, games, and other small equipment were lent by different parents.

As the year progressed, the parents met regularly to evaluate what was being done and to make plans for the future. The parent-education specialist and I were invited to attend these meetings. We helped to plan activities that would be more mean-

ingful. In one instance, through the loan of large building blocks it was demonstrated to the whole group how quickly children respond to the correct type of play equipment.

When school was out, at least half the parents felt that disbanding for the summer would mean too great a loss to their children. Those who wished it, continued to meet 1 day a week instead of twice a week as formerly.

In the fall when the whole group came together again, the group decided to give the children some new experience. A short train trip followed by a picnic and play in a small

community park was a great success. Later trips were made along a brook and to a nearby farm, where the children saw young farm animals.

Since its beginning 2 years ago, this play group has proved valuable in many ways. The community hopes to make it permanent, with new children joining the ranks as the others outgrow it.

Some of the good results the parents have seen as outcomes of this cooperative effort are: Greater understanding for themselves of the needs of children of this age; development of self-reliance in the children, the bringing out of the too-shy child; and the value of learning cooperation by the too-aggressive child. Some parents learned from observation what type of clothing gave the child more freedom and comfort in play; others what type of play and play equipment appealed most to children of this age.

Mid-morning juice was a welcome break in the exciting day of these youngsters.



4-H marketing tour

Twenty trips for older 4-H members in North Dakota this year enable them to observe grain-marketing processes.

Two county agricultural agents accompany the club members on their visit to the Minneapolis grain markets.

Boys at least 16 years old on January 1, 1947, who have completed at least 2 years of agricultural work, including 1947, are eligible for the trips. Factors entering into the selection of delegates are participation in crops

projects, the use of pure seed or certified seed, a good record in agricultural projects, and general leadership ability.

The trips include transportation, lodging, and meals, provided by a grain commission merchant of Minneapolis. Ralph Welch, representative of the firm, a former North Dakota 4-H Club member and county extension agent, supervises the market tour. Boys who make the trip learn how grain is graded, sold, and processed into food.

Do you know

PROF. E. J. PERRY, an extension dairyman with a flair for 4-H Clubs?

■ New Jersey boys and girls are faithful supporters of better dairy practices recommended by their own dairy specialist, Prof. E. J. Perry, well known and well loved by so many of them.

His contribution to 4-H Club work is outlined in a citation prepared by the State Club Agents' Association. The citation reads:

"Professor Perry is best known for his promotion of artificial breeding work. After a trip to Europe, he helped to establish the first artificial breeding association in the United States. This project has already had far-reaching effects which will make him known for many years to come in the field of applied science.

"As a supporter and promoter of 4-H work in New Jersey along sound practical lines, there are few who can match Perry. His contributions to dairy-club work are numerous. He is not only interested in dairying, as such, but also in the individual boy and girl, their parents, and the leaders who are working with them. They like him because he speaks in language which they can understand.

"Agents find that he is an excellent cooperator. He has helped them with program planning, leader training, taking part in club meetings, dairy judging, etc.

"Professor Perry has always helped and still believes in dramatizing 4-H dairy work through shows. He believes that every 4-H dairy boy and girl should learn to feed, lead, fit, and show animals. He has helped to find special awards from breed associations and other sources to encourage young dairymen. He is one of the strong advocates of judging and demonstration work.

"Perry has written extensively, and his news items and articles have been widely published and read. His use of the camera has helped to give 4-H dairy work better publicity than it otherwise would have had. His slides on 4-H Club work are enjoyed at



The State interests, young and old, were well represented at a testimonial dinner for Prof. E. J. Perry, arranged by the New Jersey Club Agents' Association. Agnes Best of Hunterdon County and William Chafey of Burlington County represented New Jersey club members when they presented a desk pen and handtooled leather blotter holder to "E. J." in appreciation of his outstanding services to club work. The club agents gave him a leather bag.

meetings, and those on general dairy topics make fine visual contributions.

"Every month 'E. J.' writes a State 4-H dairy newsletter. It is a publication of considerable merit. It is not a mere hashing over of old topics. It presents new material, and it helps to interpret the business of dairy farming from every angle.

"Dairying is a major farm undertaking in New Jersey. It helps in soil building and in keeping the farm out of debt. Professor Perry has well represented and dignified the business of dairy farming. Hundreds of boys and girls will long remember his wisdom, his suggestions, and his friendliness."

Professor Perry came to New Jersey as extension dairy specialist in the early 1920's. For his contribution to 4-H Club work in the years since then, the State Club Agents' Association honored him with a surprise dinner last June.

Every 4-H dairy club was invited to send leader and member delegates, and most of them did so. The club agents also included in their guest list members of the Extension Service and Dairy Department of Rutgers University and officers of cattle breed associations and artificial breeding units.

The 4-H dairy boys and girls gave E. J. a desk pen and a beautiful handtooled leather desk blotter holder. The club agents gave him a leather bag which they believe he may use either for his golf duds or to take with him on his second trip to Europe.

Professor Perry was the second person to be so honored by the New Jersey Club Agents' Association. The first was former Senator Joseph S. Frelinghuysen, honored in May 1944 because of his efforts in establishing the New Jersey Junior Breeders' Fund. This fund has helped hundreds of boys and girls in all parts of the State to purchase cattle, livestock, and poultry.

In selecting persons for recognition, the facts taken into consideration are: (1) Length of time services have continued; (2) extent to which the 4-H program in the whole State has been affected; and (3) soundness and permanency of services rendered.—*Joseph B. Turpin, club agent, Mercer County, N. J.*

4-H membership to new high

The largest 4-H Club enrollment in the history of Missouri is the record achieved last spring when new club members swelled the total enrollment to 35,127.

State 4-H workers attribute this gain of 10,932 new members to these 3 factors:

The closing date for organizing new clubs was set back to April 1. This brought about a concerted effort to complete the new club groups early in the year.

In many counties the local 4-H councils and leaders accepted the challenge to meet the larger quotas needed to reach the State goal of 35,000 4-H Club boys and girls.

Specialists on the State staff gave leaders more training than in any previous year. These well-trained leaders led the drive for membership in their counties.

In Laclede County where only 15 boys and girls were enrolled in club work last year, the new quota of 200 members was exceeded before the closing date.

A popular demonstration

■ Grandma never dreamed that some day the feathers in her prized feather bed might go into a satin-covered comforter. But that's just what's happening.

Mississippi home demonstration club women, using feathers mostly from discarded feather beds and extra pillows, have made more than 3,000 of these comforters.

Miss Lorraine Ford, extension home-management specialist, launched the program 3 years ago. She worked out directions for making the comforters and mimeographed them along with sewing directions. These she sent to the home demonstration agents in the State. Then by groups, usually about 10 agents to a group, she conducted training demon-

strations. Each agent made a comforter.

After attending these training meetings, the agents were ready to show the home demonstration club women in their counties how to make the comforters. Each demonstration resulted in a clamor for comforter material by an enthusiastic group of women. Home agents have given at least one comforter-making demonstration in every county in Mississippi.

The club women in each club or county buy the satin cooperatively. This way they get it at wholesale prices. They may order the satin in maroon or a soft, lovely shade of green, rose, or blue. In some counties the orders are handled through the county home demonstration council.

Local merchants in some counties have measured and cut the material into comforter lengths. In others, the women have done this themselves. On the average, the material for a comforter costs \$5.50.

The home agent in Tunica County says this one demonstration has created more interest and reached more people than any three others. She gave three demonstrations at clubs and five at the county courthouse. From then on, the women were able to go ahead without much help from her. For they had all helped with the demonstrations, and there is nothing complicated about making the comforters.

Mrs. Sims Long, of Teoc Community, Carroll County, has created a profitable home industry in wool comforters from the interest in comforter making.

Agents visit White House

■ President Truman received representatives of the National Associations of County Agricultural Agents and of Home Demonstration Agents during the July meeting of officers and committee chairmen, held in Washington, D. C. They met with various Government agencies and members of the Extension staff studying some of the national problems that affect their work.

Represented in the photograph from left to right are: First row, N. E. Dodd, Under Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.; Mrs. Luella Condon, home demonstration agent, Rockwell City, Iowa, president of the NAHDA; President Truman; H. M. Nichols, county agent, Webster City, Iowa, president of the NACAA; second row, S. D. Bateman, county agent, Fort Smith, Ark.; Stuart Stirling, county agent, Silver City, N. Mex.; C. C. Keller, county agent, Springfield, Mo.; Miss Marghetta Jebson, home demonstration agent, Hackensack, Bergen Co., N. J.; third row, Paul Barger, county agent, Waterloo, Iowa; Mrs. W. H. Sill; W. H. Sill, county agent, Parkersburg, W. Va.; A. F. MacDougall, county agent, Concord, Mass.; fourth row, Mrs. V. A. Helfenstein; Mrs. George Rosenfeld; Edwin Bay, county agent,

Springfield, Ill.; John M. Cavender, county agent, Jonesboro, Ark.; Mrs. E. D. Beck; fifth row, C. T. Hall, county agent, Olathe, Kans.; George Rosenfeld, county agent, Storm Lake, Iowa; A. P. Bralley, county agent, Amarillo, Tex.; Mrs. A. P. Bralley;

John Stephens, county agent, Marion, Ark.; sixth row, Lew Mar Price, county agent, Richfield, Utah; Dwight M. Babbitt, county agent, Flemington, N. J.; V. A. Helfenstein, Omaha, Neb.; M. L. Wilson, Director of Extension Work, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.; and E. D. Beck, county agent, Laredo, Tex.





Flashes

FROM SCIENCE FRONTIERS

A few hints of what's in the offing as a result of scientific research in the U. S. Department of Agriculture that may be of interest to extension workers, as seen by Marion Julia Drown, Agricultural Research Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Quackgrass Falls Before "IPC"

Specialists in plant-growth regulators, or hormone-like chemicals, at the Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md., have been investigating 2, 4-D's opposite number, IPC—which stands for isopropyl-N-phenyl carbamate. IPC kills some of the grasses as 2, 4-D kills broad-leaved plants. Favorable results have been obtained on quackgrass, one of the farmer's worst weed pests.

In the Plant Industry Station greenhouses, visitors are sometimes shown three small plots. In one, grasses are flourishing without any broad-leaved weeds intruding. This was treated with 2, 4-D. In another, beet plants flaunt their wide leaves unrivaled by the presence of unwanted grasses. This was treated with IPC. The third plot is bare of all vegetation. It was treated with both 2, 4-D and IPC. This exhibit is a striking illustration of the selective effects of the two chemicals.

British scientists were the first to report on the grass-killing properties of IPC. John W. Mitchell, P. C. Marth, and L. W. Kephart, of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, found in their tests that 10 pounds of IPC to the acre, applied to the soil in sand as a carrier, killed all growth of quackgrass and quackgrass seedlings in 6 weeks. Applications at the rate of 5 pounds an acre checked growth in 3 weeks and killed all mature stolons, or runners, in 2 months. The chemical acts through absorption by the roots, so that applications to the soil are more effective than applications to the leaves.

IPC is too new to be used without caution. It apparently does not harm beets or some broad-leaved weeds, and no toxic effect on human beings has been observed. Not enough tests have been made, however, to warrant broad recommendations. The chemical can

be bought now from some chemical supply houses in the form of a fine powder and may soon be available under trade names.

Warning on 2,4-D

2,4-D is no respecter of man's purposes. It kills crop plants as well as weeds if it is indiscriminately used. Experiments have shown that dusting fields with 2,4-D by airplane to control weeds is dangerous to nearby crops. Sprays are somewhat better, but they too must be used with great caution.

All broad-leaved plants, whether crops or weeds, may be killed or injured by 2,4-D. The scientists who developed this powerful herbicide urge extreme care in its use where it may come in contact with broad-leaved crop plants in fields or gardens.

"No Vaccine" Decreed in Foot-and-Mouth Campaign in Mexico

The methods being used to eradicate foot-and-mouth disease in the current outbreak in Mexico are based, in large degree, on the results of a study of the disease begun in 1925. In that year a commission of scientists was authorized by a special act of Congress to study foot-and-mouth disease in Europe, where it is constantly present. All the work was done abroad to avoid the danger to our livestock that would have resulted from experimentation with the highly infective virus. The commission concluded that the best method of eradicating outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease that might occur in the United States, which is normally free from the disease, was by quarantine, slaughter, deep burial or burning of the carcasses, and disinfection of the premises.

The campaign in Mexico is being conducted jointly by Mexican and United States authorities, and substantially the same methods are being

used that both practical experience and research work abroad have shown to be sound. Suggestions have been made that vaccination might hasten the progress of the eradication work, but the scientists say that vaccination would actually be a hindrance in Mexico where the goal is complete eradication of the infection. Vaccination is best suited for use in countries where the disease is constantly present and where the main purpose is to try to reduce the losses rather than to stamp the disease out completely. Largely for the foregoing reasons, to which others might be added, vaccination is excluded from the Mexican foot-and-mouth campaign.

How To Keep Home-Rendered Lard Fresh

A simple way to keep home-rendered lard from becoming rancid when stored for home use is recommended by the Eastern Regional Research Laboratory. Just add 2 to 3 pounds of hydrogenated vegetable shortening to each 50 pounds of lard at the time of rendering, say chemists at the laboratory who are seeking new uses for lard and other animal fats. Keeping lard fresh is important, they say, because "lard is a high-energy food that is almost completely digestible and contains substances necessary for good nutrition. Strong or rancid lard is not only unfit for food use and very unpalatable, but certain desirable food values have been destroyed. Such lard also destroys essential vitamins in foods to which it may be added." Lard cannot be easily renovated after it becomes rancid.

Hydrogenated vegetable shortening is sold under various trade names. The thing to remember is that it must be a vegetable product. The shortening can be added to the lard in the rendering kettle just before settling and separating the cracklings in the lard press. Or the vegetable shortening may be added to the melted lard in the storage container. Be sure the vegetable shortening is entirely melted and thoroughly mixed with the lard.

Information on the rendering and storage of lard can be obtained from the Eastern Regional Research Laboratory, Chestnut Hill Station, Philadelphia 18, Pa.

Tips on animal pictures

Fourth in a series of practical ideas for making better extension pictures, by George W. Ackerman, chief photographer, Extension Service, U. S. D. A.

■ If a county agent takes many pictures, animals are sure to be among the subjects wanted. Plenty of time and patience are essential in photographing animals. Pick out your background and plan your picture before worrying your subjects. Too many willing helpers have often spoiled my chances for a good picture by worrying and exciting the animals to be photographed. Don't take along any more people than you need, and explain to them just what you want to do.

A hungry animal and some feed at your disposal make for cooperation. I often ask the farmer to keep the animal hungry until we start work. Then I can put the feed just where I want to picture the animals and drive them slowly toward it.

The sheep on the banks of the stream at the right were photographed in this way. They were taken to illustrate the use of sheep in keeping Utah irrigation ditches clear of weeds,



but in the years since I made it the picture has often been used to illustrate the "beside the still waters," from the Twenty-third Psalm.

A team of horses drinking at a watering trough baffled me, for the horses wouldn't drink. I put an ear of corn into the trough and got the picture I wanted.

Animals to be photographed with an active group such as a 4-H Club, are sometimes a problem. Backing the animal into a corner, as in the picture



below, helps to control the animal, makes the young folks feel at ease leaning on the fence, and gives a pleasing diagonal grouping.

With patience and careful planning, animal pictures can be among the most attractive and interesting in your collection.

4-H leaders convene

Recognition for a job well done. This was the honor paid recently to representative 4-H Club leaders from all over Illinois.

Four outstanding leaders from each county were invited to attend the recognition banquet held at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel, Springfield, by the Illinois Chain Store Council. The leaders turned out 300 strong from 75 different counties to witness the first State-wide tribute ever to be paid to 4-H leaders in Illinois.

Dr. J. O. Christianson, superintendent of the School of Agriculture, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn., spoke on "Our Part in These Times," stressing the need for a nation of strong families in order to build a strong family of nations. The 4-H Club program, of course, stimulates a common interest among parents and children, thus helping to promote strong family ties.

Mrs. Phil Goodwin, 21-year club leader of Will County, gave a response for the leaders. Prof. E. I. Pilchard, director of agricultural 4-H Club work in Illinois, served as toastmaster.

The program began early in the afternoon with a tour of Abraham Lincoln's home and tomb. Visits were made to the statehouse and the Centennial Building before the guests gathered at the grand ballroom of the hotel for the evening's banquet and program.

PENNSYLVANIA COUNTY

AGENTS reorganized for 1947 by electing Harry J. Poorbaugh, Pottsville, Schuylkill County, president to succeed Rex E. Carter of Uniontown, Fayette County. Other new officers are R. H. McDougall, Butler, secretary-treasurer; Lyle R. Bennett, Lewisburg, Union County, vice president; and James H. Book, Montgomery County, and W. Brooke Ball, Jefferson County, directors.

New Jersey agents take a tour

■ New Jersey's home agents and home economics specialists combined business with pleasure on a 4-day professional improvement trip to Washington this past spring.

Their visit of two full days to the Department of Agriculture was spent at the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics at Beltsville and in Washington getting acquainted with the extension personnel.

The worth-while day at the research center at Beltsville gave the group a fine chance to learn about the work being done there.

In clothing and textile research, they were shown the latest functional designs in house dresses and aprons which have been worked out by Clarice Scott. Research being done on mildew resistance, detergent effectiveness, and other textile and clothing problems were observed.

Lenore Sater showed the group the model kitchen which she and her associates are designing. This kitchen includes special metal storage bins for flour, sugar, and other staples, and a "lazy Susan" device for corner storage. Home freezers, ranges, washing machines, and pressure saucepans are being checked at the Bureau, also.

Nutrition Studies Reviewed

The group was told of the nutrition studies being carried on. Work is being continued on processing times for canning. Best methods for cooking meat and poultry are being determined. Tests are being made to develop a standard way of cooking rice to give the best product from the standpoint of appearance, nutritional value, and palatability. Varieties and methods for cooking and French-frying potatoes are also being studied.

The day, which Florence Hall, extension field agent for the Northeast, arranged with the Federal Extension staff was indeed a success, too. The group was greeted by Director Wilson and H. W. Hochbaum. It learned from Dr. Gladys Gallup and her staff about the effectiveness of the different teaching methods used by extension workers and about recent studies be-

ing made to determine this. The New Jersey annual reports were reviewed and constructively criticized. Next year's report will no doubt show a big improvement!

Mrs. Amy Cowing, of the Federal Extension Service, applied her readability tests to New Jersey news stories, circular letters, and bulletins, and offered suggestions on how to make them easier reading.

As luncheon speakers, Dr. Mark Ziegler, chief medical officer of the Farmers' Home Administration, and Charles Potter, of the Federal Exten-

sion Service, urged New Jersey, as well as every other State, to broaden its extension program in health. Others from the Department told of the implications of the Hope-Flannagan legislation for home demonstration work, newer trends in the extension program in family life, and how the Extension Service Review can help extension workers.

The home agents and specialists felt that their trip was certainly worth while. They came back from Washington with a better understanding of what is being done to make the extension program more effective in New Jersey and throughout the United States.

Two Oregon veterans retire

■ Two veteran members of the Oregon State 4-H Club staff retired on July 1—Helen Cowgill, assistant State club leader since August 16, 1914, and H. C. Seymour, State club leader since February 1, 1916. L. J. Allen will become State club leader, and Miss Cowgill's duties will be taken over by Mrs. Winnifred Gillen, formerly home demonstration agent.

Achieves a Service Record

Miss Cowgill, Seymour, and Allen have constituted the long-time team that built club work in the Beaver State to a position of national prominence, ranking among the top States in percentage of eligible youth enrolled, in national trophies won, and in many other categories.

Miss Cowgill's record of nearly 33 years in 4-H Club leadership is one of the longest periods of service achieved by an extension worker in the United States. She was born in Illinois and graduated from Oregon State College with a B. S. degree in home economics in 1913. She taught home economics at Burns, Oreg., for 1 year before joining the State 4-H Club staff. F. L. Griffin then was State club leader and head of the agricultural education department; and R. D. Hetzel, now president of Pennsylvania State College, was extension director.

Canning then was the principal home economics club project. Miss

Cowgill started instruction in clothing and cooking. Oregon home economics work under her direction has always been outstanding in the Nation. Three Oregon girls have been Moses Trophy winners. She is the author of nearly all bulletins used in home economics projects in the State today, many of which also have been widely used in other States. The dollar-dinner contest—now an annual feature of the Oregon State Fair and the Pacific International Livestock exposition—is one of the ideas she originated.

Miss Cowgill has maintained a home for her father and mother throughout her career. She has been a tireless worker and has never hesitated to sacrifice time and energy for her job.

Gives Credit to Teamwork

Harry Seymour came to Oregon State College as State club leader after serving as county superintendent of schools in Polk County, Oreg., where he had taken active part in promotion of the new idea of club work.

Seymour disclaims credit for the national recognition which 4-H Club work in Oregon has achieved under his leadership. He declares that the success of the program has been due to the teamwork and wholehearted cooperation of the club staff, the thousands of local leaders, and the

many business and civic leaders who have contributed liberally to this youth movement.

Two features of Oregon 4-H Club work have been the foundation principles in achieving this success: (1) The training of local leaders. There have been active county organizations of club leaders in the State since about 1920, and a State association with annual training schools for its members has been in existence for about 10 years. (2) Insistence upon high standards of work. Club members have been accorded recognition for satisfactorily completing their projects only when they have fully met the specified requirements for the project. And the judging standards enforced at county and State shows have likewise been high. This adherence to high standards has built public respect and support for club work.

An example of the widespread public support for the work is provided by the annual 4-H Club Summer

School on the Oregon State College campus. This 10-day event, started in 1914, is unique in many respects. One of them is the fact that nearly all the 1,500 to 1,800 club members who attend come on free scholarships financed by local groups. The list of sponsors is long and varied. It includes women's clubs, lodges, garden clubs, banks, farmers' associations, communities, service clubs, stores, parent-teacher associations, and county fairs, to mention but a few. Similar wholehearted public support is evident in every major 4-H undertaking.

Oregon's success in developing widespread public backing for club work was one of the reasons why the Federal Extension Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture last fall drafted Seymour to spend two-thirds of his time as field agent for 4-H Club work in the Western States. He will continue to hold that position after his retirement from the Oregon staff.

4-H Club leaders honored

Adult 4-H Club leaders with long service records in Tennessee received certificates from Dr. C. E. Brehm, Director of Extension in Tennessee and Acting President of the University of Tennessee. Certificates were presented to 56 adult leaders who had served 5 years or more. Four of these had served at least 25 years; 2 had served 15 years or more, and 17 had served 10 years.

Some 270 persons attended a dinner given in honor of the leaders. Chief speaker was Governor Jim McCord.

Following the dinner, held late in December, leaders formed a permanent organization, to be called the West Tennessee Adult 4-H Leaders Association.

The local newspaper published a special edition honoring clubs and club work, and welcoming the leaders and extension personnel to the city.

This is but one of such recognition events in the United States for loyal 4-H leaders of long service. More than 5,000 4-H awards of the silver clover have been presented for 5 years of faithful service, 2,000 4-H awards of the gold clover for 10 years of service, 900 4-H awards of the pearl clover for 15 years of service, and 100 4-H awards of the diamond clover for 20 years of service. All together, this represents 60,500 years of voluntary service to the rural youth of America—no mean contribution to the welfare of the Nation.

■ Home-made signs along New York highways to indicate cattle crossings are on their way out. New and uniform signs prepared by the State are replacing those now posted by individual farmers.

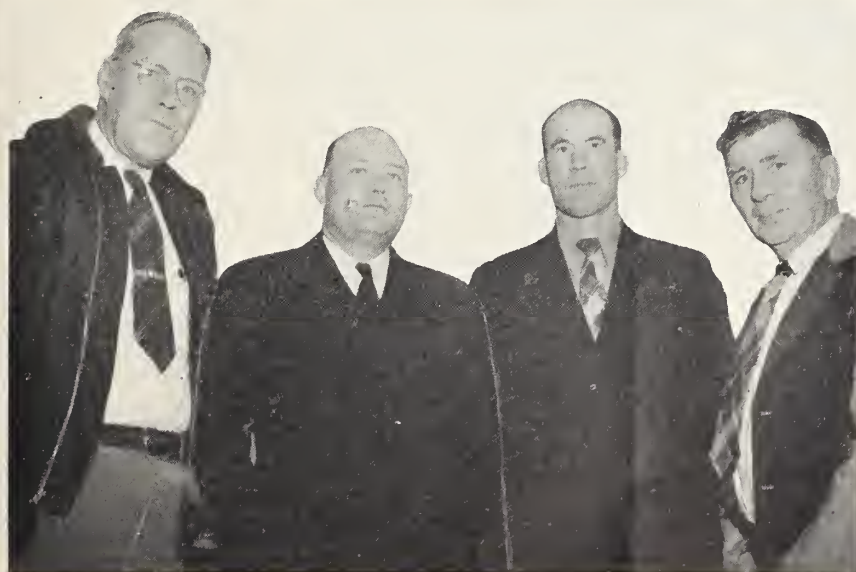
Charles H. Sells, State Superintendent of Public Works, agreed with the health and safety committee of the Colleges of Agriculture and Home Economics at Cornell that new and uniform signs would help, both as a highway safety measure and in improving the appearance of roadside signs.

State erection and maintenance of such signs is part of the New York Department of Public Works' over-all program to remove all private and unauthorized notices from highway rights-of-way.

Colorado's new officers

■ A feature of the thirty-second annual Extension Service conference in Colorado, February 21 to 28, was the annual meeting of the Colorado Extension Agents Association. Shown with P. B. Miles (left), Huerfano County agricultural agent, the retiring president, are the new officers

of the association: Sherman S. Hoar, Logan County agricultural agent, chosen as president for the coming year; Archie Hale, Rio Blanco County agent, secretary-treasurer; and Homer V. McCullah, agent for Grand and Summit Counties, vice president of the association in 1947.



Among Ourselves

■ WALKER R. REYNOLDS, who retires this fall after 32 years as agent in Jackson County, Ky., exemplifies the spirit of the early pioneers who did so much to develop the Extension Service on a sound basis.

The story of how Farmer Reynolds drove to the nearest railroad station, 30 miles away, and took the train to Lexington to try to get a county agent for his part of the country is told in the *Progressive Farmer* for April by William F. Johnstone. The Lexington officials agreed to his request and made him agent, with the instruction to "teach the best farm practices known." This he has done through the years.

Then, as now, it was the agent who encouraged farmers to lime their land, improve their livestock, and to get better roads, electric lines, and other improvements. Like many others, County Agent Reynolds feels that 4-H Clubs have been his greatest weapon against challengers of Extension work. In his 32 years, some 10,000 Kentucky boys and girls have participated in 4-H Clubs. "I'm especially proud of those who have elected to stay on the farms in their own communities," he says. The 4-H boy from the mountain who won the State pig club championship during the First World War marked the first step toward improvement of livestock in the county, according to the opinion of one local farmer.

County Agent Reynolds lays much of his achievement to the help of able leaders. "It is help of this sort that has enabled me to carry on the work so long," he says.

■ A. P. SPENCER, extension director of Florida, another pioneer extension worker, retired from active duty June 30 after 37 years on the staff. He is the only member of the Florida staff who has been connected with it continuously since the service was officially established in 1914 and is one of the oldest extension workers in the United States.

Mr. Spencer came to Florida on September 15, 1910, to become associ-



A. P. Spencer

ated with the farmers' cooperative demonstration work which preceded the Extension Service. In 1914 he was made district agent and in 1916 assistant director. On November 1, 1943, he became director of extension, succeeding the late Dr. Wilmon Newell.

His name appears as author or co-author on 10 of the first 12 bulletins published by the Florida Extension Service. The 14 bulletins which he prepared or helped write cover such

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subjects at foundation plantings for Florida homes, vegetable crops, Irish potatoes, sweetpotatoes, sugarcane, peanuts, subirrigation, and others.

He has helped to steer the course of the Extension Service through emergencies associated with boll weevil invasion of cottonfields, World Wars I and II and the postwar periods, and the adjustment period beginning in 1933.

Born in Canada, Mr. Spencer attended grammar and high schools near Toronto. He moved to Virginia as manager of the livestock herds at VPI, where he enrolled as a student in 1902 and graduated in 1905. Upon graduation he was named assistant in animal husbandry at the Virginia Experiment Station. For 1 year, 1906-07, he was in commercial business in Minnesota, but he returned to Virginia in the fall of 1907 as associate professor of animal husbandry.

Awarded the master of science degree in 1909, he became a teacher of agriculture at Elk Creek, Va., for 1 year before going to Florida. He is chairman of the professional training committee of the Association of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities.

■ The county extension office secretary is like the old woman who lived in the shoe, except that she has so many duties she doesn't know what to do. This was the gist of a feature story by Evelyn M. Lyman, home demonstration agent, Oxford County, Maine, which won special mention in an extension news story contest recently. The contest was held in connection with a day-and-a-half news writing school for Maine State and county extension workers.

In the story, Miss Lyman pays tribute to Mrs. Marjorie Merrill who, at the time the article was published, was a typically busy and efficient county office secretary. She has since resigned from her position. A candid picture of Mrs. Merrill and a description of her many duties and responsibilities completed the story. It was published in connection with observance of last year's Home Demonstration Week.